



City of Boston  
BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Public Water Supply  
# 3035000

Dear Customer:

This report contains an annual update on the quality of drinking water supplied to you by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). BWSC purchases water from MWRA for distribution to homes and businesses in the City of Boston. Inside this report, there is detailed information on the MWRA's system, and how the water delivered to Boston exceeds both federal and state quality standards.

In 2014, at the tenth annual National Tap Water Taste Test, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) named Boston's tap water as the "Best of the Best." The contest included entrants from water utilities across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

A recent article in the *Journal of the American Water Works Association* provides a summary of BWSC's nationally recognized asset management program responsible for the superior quality of Boston's water. The comprehensive program includes replacement and rehabilitation of old pipes, which reduce the occurrences of water main breaks and leaks. Routine maintenance, an aggressive leak detection program, and the replacement of hydrants and valves also improve overall system efficiency.

To assure quality and regulatory compliance, BWSC maintains a comprehensive program to sample its tap water. EPA requires that no more than 5% of samples in a month may be positive for total coliform. BWSC and MWRA test over 240 samples each month for total coliform. In all of 2014, only one sample tested positive (June), and all other samples were clear.

BWSC continuously makes efforts to reduce the presence of lead in tap water and vigilantly monitors lead levels in our drinking water. BWSC tests homes regularly each year, and is pleased to report that since 2007, the Boston lead sampling results have remained below the EPA Lead Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). In 2014, the test results were 11.4 ppb at the 90th percentile. BWSC continues its efforts to replace lead service lines, thereby improving overall water quality. Please see Page 5 for more information about lead in tap water.

Although private lead service lines represent less than 4% of BWSC's service connections, BWSC continues to provide the Lead Replacement Incentive Program, which offers eligible property owners an opportunity to replace private lead service lines. This program offers homeowners financial assistance to offset a portion of the total cost of the lead service replacement. For more information about this program, contact the BWSC Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888 or visit BWSC's website at [www.bwsc.org](http://www.bwsc.org).

Any questions regarding the information in this report or about public meetings may be directed to BWSC's Communications and Community Services Department at (617) 989-7000.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry F. Vitale".

Henry F. Vitale  
Executive Director/CFO and Treasurer